

1
2 SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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5
6 HELD:

7
8 Thursday, November 30, 2017

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10 LOCATION:

11 Council Chambers

12 Scranton City Hall

13 340 North Washington Avenue

14 Scranton, Pennsylvania

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24 CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER
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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JOSEPH WECHSLER, PRESIDENT

PATRICK ROGAN, VICE-PRESIDENT

WAYNE EVANS

WILLIAM GAUGHAN

TIM PERRY

LORI REED, CITY CLERK

KATHY CARRERA, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

AMIL MINORA, ESQUIRE - SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
2 moment of reflection observed.)

3 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Here.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Here.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Here.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Here.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Here. Dispense with
14 the reading of the minutes.

15 MS. REED: THIRD ORDER. 3-A. NO
16 BUSINESS AT THIS TIME.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Do any council
18 members have announcements at this time?
19 This weekend the Scranton Holiday Market
20 will occupy the former Globe Store downtown
21 Scranton on Friday at 4:30 at the lighting
22 of the Globe Store. The 100 block of
23 Wyoming Avenue will be closed on Friday,
24 December 1, and Saturday, December 2 to
25 accommodate an ice skating ring in that

1 block. Colts has notified us that buses
2 that normally service that block will pick
3 up and drop off in the 100 block of Franklin
4 Avenue. The colts trolley will run on
5 Friday evening through the First Friday
6 activities and again on Saturday from 11
7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to accommodate the holiday
8 market. The Electric City garage will be
9 open this weekend from Friday, December 1
10 through Sunday, December 3. Parking will be
11 free at the Electric City garage only.
12 Parking in all other garages standard rates
13 will apply. All metered parking is free
14 from Friday at 5 p.m. through 8 a.m. on
15 Monday, December the 5.

16 Announcements on agenda items, Item
17 5-C, transfer of the liquor license, there
18 will be a public hearing held next week,
19 December 7 at 5:45.

20 An executive session was held on
21 Tuesday, November 28, regarding
22 reorganization and personnel matters and an
23 executive session was also held this evening
24 regarding potential litigation.

25 MS. REED: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'

1 PARTICIPATION.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Andy Sbaraglia.
3 Citizen of Scranton. Fellow Scrantonians,
4 the Electric City garage came out in the
5 news again. The newspaper had a little -- a
6 couple of lines on that, but they never said
7 it was sold for dollar. I don't know, maybe
8 they think we are going to forget all of
9 these deals that went on with this parking
10 deal. The city actually borrowed \$58
11 million, one of them is a direct loan and
12 the other is a lease. I believe they got
13 like \$28 million on the lease and went to
14 court and borrowed the \$30 million coming to
15 about \$58 million that the city is on the
16 hook for. If anything ever falls apart, we
17 are liable for that but the contracts that
18 were also given out to Burkavage \$4.1
19 million to lease spaces inside of the mall
20 so if you want to pay on the mall just
21 remember you already did pay. The \$41 point
22 -- \$4.1 million. That's nothing. Now, we
23 are giving \$300,000 a year to maintain this
24 so-called garage for 40 years because that's
25 the length of the contract. And then we

1 used to make about -- say about \$3 million a
2 year between parking meter revenue and fines
3 so we gave that up. That's another \$120
4 million over the life of this contract.

5 Now, let us look at Electric City
6 garage, who is making approximately \$300,000
7 a year which the city already said, well,
8 it's not worth anything, so we are going to
9 force Mr. Burkavage to buy it, which we did
10 come up with a dollar for it. I would offer
11 it, too, but nobody asked me. This is what
12 you passed.

13 If you look at the total cost of
14 this so-called parking monetization they
15 call it, it costs the city somewhere like a
16 quarter of a billion dollars either into
17 loss revenue, taxes or responsibility. How
18 you could have done it, I don't know, I'm
19 not going to ask, that's up for an
20 investigation to look into this. I mean,
21 the money we supposedly got for the Sewer
22 Authority pales in comparison to what we
23 have lost with the parking deal, and I don't
24 know how you can sit there straight face and
25 think that was such a great, great thing for

1 the city to do because you all voted for it.

2 I hope when it comes to the roost I
3 hope we get an investigation either from the
4 federal, state government to look into that
5 deal, but I think -- I don't if you find
6 that offensive I guess. You seem to love
7 it, but I can't do it. I'm a realist. I
8 look at costs and what it's going to cost in
9 the future. My future in this town is
10 limited, we all know that. I'm just sorry
11 to see you go so far in around the wrong
12 direction. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Joan Hodowanitz.

14 MS. HODOWANITZ: Joan Hodowanitz,
15 city resident and taxpayer. I hope you all
16 know that Friends of Scranton Public Library
17 are conducting their quarterly book sale in
18 front of the gym at the Marketplace at
19 Steamtown, so right in front of Crunch gym
20 so if you get a chance between now and
21 Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m. Please go and
22 support the library. We are selling used
23 books, paperback and hardcover, for one or
24 two dollars. On Sunday, if you buy one of
25 our black tote bags everything you stuff in

1 that bag will be free.

2 Also, tomorrow night you are invited
3 to a birthday party. It's the 30th
4 anniversary of the Lackawanna County
5 Children's Library. Now, granted it is the
6 County's facility, but it serves the
7 children and families of Scranton. We are
8 going to have a big cake, we are going to
9 have all kinds of wonderful things. Those
10 of you who have never been there you ought
11 to take a tour. The building is beautiful.
12 It's 102 years old. So come between 6 and 8
13 tomorrow night, which is First Friday, and
14 see the services we are willing and ready
15 and able to provide to the children of
16 Scranton.

17 Also, if you like that party there
18 will be a bigger party next summer when the
19 Albright Memorial Library on the corner of
20 Vine and Washington will be 125 years old.
21 It's currently closed for renovations
22 through the end of December, but it's got a
23 lot of work to do. They are updating the
24 bathrooms and the circulation desk. They
25 are redoing the mosaic tile floors and also

1 after 125 years it's time to refinish all of
2 the interior woodwork. That building is
3 probably one of the most beautiful buildings
4 in the city so patronize it when it reopens
5 in January and you better come to that
6 summer party because that's going to be a
7 blowout.

8 Now, where is my Knowel's insurance
9 list? You thought I forgot, didn't you? I
10 didn't forget and I'm not going to bribe
11 anybody anymore I want my list. And is
12 Rainey & Rainey going to continue to provide
13 assistance to the Business Administrator's
14 Office for preparation of the audits? Are
15 we going to continue to pay them under
16 contract or is that office ready to operate
17 without training wheels?

18 MR. EVANS: I think Rainey & Rainey
19 is going to continue for well into the
20 future.

21 MS. HODOWANITZ: Okay. I wish they
22 didn't have to do that but so be it. I
23 would more -- I would rather see a
24 partnership with the University of Scranton,
25 have their accounting department come down

1 here and teach the personnel what they need
2 to do for themselves. That should be part
3 of their job description. In fact, it is
4 part of their job descriptions but that's
5 just me. Thank you.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Lenny Srebro.

7 MR. SREBRO: Good evening, Council.
8 Lenny Srebro, Scranton resident. I got some
9 information for you guys that you couldn't
10 get in six months I got in a couple of
11 hours. Lots of maps, copies of deeds for
12 that property, Scranton development, I'm not
13 sure of the technical name, there is
14 satellite pictures, all of the information
15 that you needed, a copy of that. There is
16 an easement on that property, the government
17 was involved, you know, I'm hoping that I
18 can get your pay for the last four to six
19 months you kept saying that you couldn't get
20 that information that I got in a couple of
21 hours with the help of a good friend that I
22 won't mention.

23 How about it, Mr. Gaughan? Now,
24 three weeks ago you insisted that in one
25 week we are going to have a meeting and then

1 that didn't go through, then the last time I
2 was here two weeks ago, I forget your words,
3 you said you were going to go down there and
4 meet with people, did anything happen?

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, I left you a
6 message on your answering machine, the mayor
7 has still not gotten back to us other than
8 to say that he was going to be in touch with
9 the DPW director.

10 MR. SREBRO: Okay, I was in touch
11 with -- I'll tell you what, I had the
12 commissioner out there a week ago. I had
13 the city engineer out there a week ago. I
14 had the county engineer out there a week
15 ago, and I had a representative from the
16 Department of Environmental Protection.
17 Geez, I'm getting done what I believe you
18 guys are supposed to be doing, you know? So
19 there you go. Here is all of the things you
20 need and I'm not done getting information
21 for you, so how about I get your pay?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Well, Mr. Srebro, with
23 all due respect --

24 MR. SREBRO: You know what, I don't
25 mean it as an insult --

1 MR. GAUGHAN: I know, but with all
2 due respect --

3 MR. SREBRO: I'm trying to have a
4 sense of humor.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: I know, but with all
6 due respect, and I am trying to help you
7 here but, you know, you are giving me this
8 information but I'm not the city engineer,
9 I'm not the DPW director, to me this is like
10 a foreign language. I wouldn't know how to
11 clear a pipe or what material you had to do
12 so what we're trying to do is facilitate all
13 of this information to help you get the
14 problem solved and we have been trying to do
15 that, I have been trying to do that as well
16 and I run into a roadblock, but other than
17 trying to facilitate all of this I can't
18 physically go out and do it and I don't know
19 what else to --

20 MR. SREBRO: What is your roadblock?

21 MR. GAUGHAN: The roadblock, well,
22 when you were here two weeks ago you wanted
23 a meeting and I agreed with you and that's
24 what I suggested with the mayor, with the
25 DPW director, who I have spoken to, and with

1 the city engineer to figure out what else
2 has to be done to get this problem taken
3 care of. They were out there before, they
4 spent money to apparently clean the pipe,
5 that didn't work, so we are looking for an
6 alternate solution. I cannot get them into
7 a room all at once. We've asked the mayor.

8 MR. SREBRO: Well, we had them at my
9 property.

10 MR. WECHSLER: We had them
11 altogether, what did they offer you? When
12 they were altogether what they did they
13 offer you?

14 MR. SREBRO: In about two weeks they
15 are going to have some kind of answer, they
16 are digging into it, but the thing is I had
17 these power people out there for --

18 MR. WECHSLER: Well,
19 congratulations. We have been trying. We
20 have been trying to do this and you are
21 saying that we failed you, maybe we did, and
22 I congratulate you on your success and you
23 had the power players there,
24 congratulations. So if there is anything
25 else we are supposed to be involved in we

1 don't to the work. If you had all of those
2 people there and they gave you two weeks, it
3 makes no sense to come back to council in
4 two weeks and say nothing happened. You had
5 everybody there.

6 MR. SREBRO: All right.

7 Mr. Gaughan, so what's your -- what's your
8 plan on what you have said the last three
9 weeks to get together with you all of --

10 MR. GAUGHAN: We had gotten a
11 response from the mayor and the mayor had
12 said to us that he was going to reach out to
13 the DPW director to assess the situation and
14 he would get back to us. That has not
15 happened yet. I can't force the mayor to do
16 anything, unfortunately. I have been trying
17 to get a meeting. We have sent a letter, we
18 have called, I have called, I have asked and
19 to the mayor's secretary.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Who arranged the
21 meeting that you had, you did that? You
22 contacted all of those people and got them
23 all there?

24 MR. SREBRO: Actually, the
25 commissioner that was here a couple of weeks

1 ago she heard my story and --

2 MR. WECHSLER: Well, maybe the
3 county is where you have to get this done.
4 We have had no success getting this done.

5 MR. SREBRO: But I believe in that
6 document, as little as I understand how to
7 read it, it's a combination of the
8 government, the state and the city for that
9 development, I think this is the way I
10 understand it once again, but I believe it
11 states that the city is responsible for
12 maintaining that drainage ditch and also
13 that there is an easement that anybody can
14 go in there the state, the federal or the
15 city can go in there to maintain that drain.

16 You know, it's all always the same
17 thing over and over and false promises and
18 nothing gets done.

19 MR. WECHSLER: I'm anxious to see
20 how it goes in two weeks because you are
21 getting the same response that we gave you
22 from that meeting. This is the same
23 information that we got. So right now it's
24 -- to me, now it's in the hands of the
25 commissioner. If she organized that meeting

1 and in two weeks she is going to get you an
2 answer I think it's in her hands. We can't
3 do it here.

4 MR. SREBRO: She wasn't going to get
5 the answer, she was there getting the
6 information. I believe it was the city
7 engineer -- sorry, I can't --

8 MR. WECHSLER: We'll check with Mr.
9 Pocius and find out about that.

10 MR. SREBRO: You know, that was
11 going to get me an answer to it.

12 MR. WECHSLER: That's what we have
13 been dealing with all along, Mr. Srebro.

14 Lee Morgan.

15 MR. MORGAN: Good evening, Council.
16 You know, I'd like to take my hat off to
17 this gentleman, maybe that just goes to
18 prove totally how ineffective and
19 dysfunctional city government is, but you
20 know I'd like to say something about the
21 election tonight. You know, the election is
22 over, and I really think that it would have
23 been a lot better for the residents of this
24 city. I mean, there was really no support
25 behind either candidate but Mr. Mulligan's

1 insurance issue I think had to play pretty
2 loudly in this election, but I think the
3 residents of Scranton have to realize one
4 thing, he couldn't give himself insurance,
5 it had to come from the Authority or the
6 mayor or someone. Someone made that
7 possible and it's illegal. Mr. Bolus was in
8 Court for that a few years back about
9 putting people on his insurance policy that
10 weren't employees. And, you, know the stuff
11 going at the Scranton School District with
12 the non-employee getting benefits, you know,
13 you ask yourself where is the Auditor
14 General or the Attorney General and where
15 are the prosecution at, but politics has
16 just reached a point where really law has no
17 standing, politics stands over everything,
18 and it's lead to America becoming a very,
19 very corrupt country with a fallen standard
20 of living and we have to -- I think the
21 people at home should listen to some of the
22 things that Andy Sbaraglia said because he
23 is an older gentleman, we never know how
24 long we are going to live, but listen to the
25 amount of the money, the resident's money,

1 that this council and this administration
2 gave away. It's mind boggling. It's just
3 -- it's criminal is what it is. It's beyond
4 criminal, only nobody will come in here from
5 the state or the federal government and
6 prosecute our elected government for it's
7 incompetence for 25 years. It's just eye
8 opening, and I do realize, you know, that
9 the residents are in fear of their own
10 government because they have told me so
11 themselves, and the amazing thing here is
12 that the city, from reading the newspaper
13 accounts, is trying to bully the county into
14 doing a reassessment to raise property taxes
15 by doing an assessment so the city can gain
16 more income.

17 But, you know, the most troubling
18 thing of all is when Judge Gibbons didn't
19 tell the city to immediately put the alleged
20 overtaxation of it's resident into an escrow
21 account and strip the city of that money
22 until that issue was settled in Court. But,
23 I mean, when you see the pain and the
24 suffering this community has accepted for 25
25 plus years from a totally dysfunctional

1 government and it continues on and on and on
2 and on, I mean, here is a man that should
3 have a row boat to get to his house and we
4 don't have a city government capable of
5 solving his problem, and you know the
6 funniest thing of this whole issue that I
7 find hilarious is the Scranton Sewer
8 Authority was sold and the city can't even
9 maintain the storm water collection system
10 and had no plan.

11 You know, I have an issue in front
12 of the PUC right now of my own, but I intend
13 to proceed with a second one after I settle
14 one, but I really think that the council
15 itself, even though you -- well, Mr. Rogan,
16 you just won election, it's amazing,
17 Mr. Wechsler, you are going home soon, but I
18 just think you should all resign and I think
19 the mayor should resign and I think we
20 really need a new government here that
21 realizes one thing the people are severely
22 overtaxed. We are getting ready to build a
23 splash park, where the community development
24 money with all of the millions Mr. Doherty
25 spent, the tree house, the bridge that goes

1 nowhere, all of the money into the parks.
2 Now we are going to spend more money in the
3 parks, for what? Most people don't use
4 parks. They are barely surviving in their
5 own homes because they are so overtaxed they
6 have no discretionary spending of their own
7 and you want more money, and the money that
8 you had you invested, squandered, lost the
9 investment and then threw all kinds of
10 revenue away. Listen to what Mr. Sbaraglia
11 said here tonight about the amount of money
12 that's been thrown into the wind and then
13 look at this council and this mayor and this
14 form of the government and ask yourself one
15 very simple thing, is this government
16 working for anyone at all? It's not even
17 working for itself. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: Ron Ellman.

19 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.
20 I just wish to enlighten council and on
21 something positive for a change. I'm not
22 moving and I didn't drop dead last week, but
23 years ago when the OJ Simpson trial ended
24 the next day or two I have was having coffee
25 with Mr. DeNaples and I was going on and on

1 and on about the results Mr. DeNaples told
2 me to be quiet and he said this man is
3 innocent by a jury, by his peers, he said go
4 forward, go on, forget it for the time. So
5 I have decided to do that about this past
6 election. I'm going to try quite being a
7 thorn in Mayor Bill's side, though we have a
8 lot of disagreement -- well, I have a lot of
9 disagreements with his administration but I
10 need to go on I guess. If there is any way
11 I could assist him he knows that he could
12 still find me at the Taurus Club men's room
13 like in the past there.

14 But to get -- this reassessment
15 issue it's not going to die, I can see that.
16 Assessment and reassessment is nothing more
17 in the whole world than a form of revenue.
18 This is the big lie that it's going -- taxes
19 are going to go down. You are not going to
20 borrow lawyer money and you not going to
21 borrow \$13 million and have taxes go down.
22 They are not going to stay the same, the
23 only thing that's going to happen they are
24 going to go up in the future. You know,
25 this a big lie what's being told about it.

1 That's period. They are not going down.
2 Period to you, period to Jerry, period to
3 Mr. Volpe, you people need to -- you need to
4 get the facts and tell the public this is --
5 the taxes are going to go up for crying out
6 loud. I hear people say maybe it's good. I
7 seen in the -- on the opinions this Ed Cozen
8 we need it, you know. Why don't he just
9 voluntarily give a couple of thousand
10 dollars extra, the rest of them, too, maybe
11 to save someone from losing their house.

12 And I had a gentlemen come over who
13 has a relative at the apartments or had one
14 he told me, why can't -- who wrote a
15 contract without having prices in it? I
16 understand a price control, these people say
17 there is no protection for them. You are
18 talking about a part of our society because
19 I'm part of it, these people they are naive,
20 you know, they are the most vulnerable part
21 of our society and they are being taken
22 advantage of. This company got all of these
23 grants, loans, tax deferments because of the
24 senior citizens and they are not fulfilling
25 their part of the contract. Can't

1 something -- can't their tax status be
2 rescinded or something? There out to be
3 some protection for these people, they need
4 to go down to the Bureau of Aging I guess,
5 maybe they could do something. This man
6 didn't even know about the Borough of Aging.
7 I told him I went down there and they did my
8 will for nothing a few years ago, but I
9 don't know what they can and what they don't
10 do but you can't tell me -- you talk about
11 the people, these people sent a man to the
12 moon and back and, look, there is no help to
13 get to save their apartments and their homes
14 anymore. There is people there that --
15 well, this gentlemen told me they a house,
16 he sold his in-laws house or something, he
17 said they got about half what it was worth
18 over the years and they lived there for, you
19 know, so he was happy, now, they're rent is
20 more than -- well more than they can afford.
21 I think that definitely needs to be looked
22 into by the attorney General or somebody.
23 When this company got -- like I said, the
24 only reason they are there with tax
25 deferments is because of senior citizens and

1 now they are evicting them. See what you
2 can do. This is a great sadness for me to
3 listen to these stories. Thank you.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. John
5 Morrow.

6 MR. MORROW: Good evening, Council,
7 thank you. I'm here tonight on behalf of
8 the Lackawanna County River Conservation
9 Association. As you all may be aware, for
10 the past 30 years the work that the group
11 has done to improve the river, the City of
12 Scranton, has been exceptional. The state
13 of the river 35 years ago is completely
14 unacceptable and what they have done has
15 brought civic pride back to the city and to
16 the county and they want people to enjoy the
17 river and the outdoors along the river and
18 so we are now in the voting for Pennsylvania
19 river of the year, and I'd like to ask the
20 council support us, ask everybody to vote,
21 we have the information here, and we would
22 love to see the Lackawanna river be voted
23 the river of the year in Pennsylvania for
24 our 30th anniversary which we also
25 celebrating tomorrow evening as part of

1 First Friday at the Hilton. We are having
2 rock the river, which is going to be a
3 benefit concert for the Lackawanna River
4 Association and we are also going to be
5 holding our shiverfest in January,
6 riverfest, many other events along the river
7 and would like to thank the city for all of
8 the help with Sweeney beach that you have
9 given us, and the related item under 7-C of
10 tonight's agenda the LCRA does work closely
11 with the Heritage Valley Authority and I
12 would like to support the city helping to
13 maintain these trails that people worked so
14 hard and it's incumbent upon us when we
15 enter these capital venture projects to
16 maintain them afterwards.

17 I would also like to add before I
18 leave that in anticipation of Ms. Maloney
19 speaking next, I support the resolution
20 being brought before you to speak out
21 against the practice of gerrymandering in
22 Pennsylvania. It's a subversion of
23 democracy that should be practiced by the
24 general assembly and is not -- we here are
25 the 112th district, right across the street

1 is the 113th district for representation and
2 the general assembly in Harrisburg and that
3 is not in the interest of Scranton to have
4 our voices split. I'm sure all of you do
5 not live in the city district and so that is
6 also critical that I ask that you do support
7 this resolution speaking out against
8 gerrymandering.

9 And if might share these with
10 everybody.

11 MR. EVANS: Before you sit down,
12 could you also tell us how the citizens can
13 vote for the Lackawanna river?

14 MR. MORROW: Okay. I have the
15 information right here on this slip. If
16 everyone goes to Pariveroftheyear.org, I'll
17 hand one out to everyone.

18 MR. EVANS: You are not on the mic
19 so you may not be coming out so it's
20 Pariveroftheyear.org so if you want to vote
21 for Lackawanna river as the river of the
22 year, well deserved. I am a former board
23 member of the Lackawanna River Corridor
24 Association, so I'm very -- a big fan of all
25 of the work that's being done on the river

1 and it certainly has come a long way. Owe
2 Pariverofthe year.org.

3 MR. MORROW: Thank you very much.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Samantha Maloney.

5 MS. MALONEY: Hello, members of
6 council. I have a handouts for you. First,
7 I want to thank you for your tireless
8 efforts to improve Scranton. My kids and I
9 really enjoy a lot of the different parks.
10 Thank you.

11 I just want to thank you for this
12 opportunity to address council. My name is
13 Samantha Maloney, I'm a resident of
14 Scranton. I provided you with a copy of my
15 statement today with references as well as
16 the resolution that I'm asking you to
17 consider. The resolution is part of a
18 statewide nonpartisan campaign lead by Fair
19 Districts of PA. The League of Women Voters
20 and the PA Council of Churches as well as
21 other nonpartisan groups. Currently, PA
22 legislators draw their own districts without
23 any oversight or standards to fairness.
24 This is gerrymandering. It is not new, it's
25 been practiced for decades by both parties.

1 However, it's gotten far worse in the recent
2 years in new mapping technologies and data
3 mining technologies. This allows parties to
4 predict the district's outcomes with greater
5 precision and, thus, protect their control,
6 maximize their influence and minimize their
7 accountable and keep their seats in office
8 secure.

9 Pennsylvania has the distinction of
10 being cited in the national press as one of
11 the three worst gerrymandered states. In
12 five different widely used mathematical
13 methods, I'm going to hand that out, to
14 determine partisan gerrymandering, PA was
15 the only state to rate in the top five in
16 all of the categories.

17 For example, the seventh district
18 has been determined as one of the ten worst
19 gerrymandered in the county. I have
20 attached pictures of it's transformation
21 over time. It turns from a near triangle to
22 what is described now as a goofy kicking
23 Donald Duck. Also, the 12th district could
24 be mistaken for the boot of Italy and the
25 6th resembles the State of Florida.

Attached are pictures of the 17th district as well as the 113th and the 22nd state manned legislative district. As a result, whether you are a Republican or Democrat, this is bad for us and bad for our democracy. Basically, politicians no longer have to be accountable to all of their constituents. Incumbent politicians, located in the safe district, often do not even have opposition for a reelection and, therefore, results in lack of new ideas.

Additionally, legislatures may be easily influenced by party funded superpacks and other outside interests that target PA because we are a popular swing state. Even amongst all of these negative consequences contribute to the feeling that an individual's voice doesn't count at all.

1 If elected officials and
2 gerrymandered districts can ignore a large
3 portion of the constituents because the
4 votes don't even matter. Citizens can
5 become convinced that democracy doesn't work
6 for them so why bother showing up.

7 Additionally, even well-meaning
8 politicians can't effectively maintain their
9 offices and effectively can't govern when
10 the districts are so spread out. This is a
11 dangerous attitude that eats away at the
12 fundamental underpinnings of our society.
13 However, many of our elected officials have
14 been working across the aisle to change
15 this. Today, there are companion bills in
16 the Pennsylvania House and State which would
17 establish an independent commission,
18 citizens commission, to more fairly and
19 transparently establish a state
20 congressional districts. Senate Bill 22 is
21 a cosponsored and bipartisan effort by a
22 republican and a democrat. It is currently
23 cosponsored by 13 state senators, including
24 Senator Blake. House Bill 722, has likewise
25 bipartisan support and is cosponsored by 99

1 house members including the reps from the
2 112th, 114th, 15th, 16th and 17th districts.

3 This proposed legislation is similar
4 to other successful state redistricting
5 plans across the nation and it seeks to
6 establish 100 member independent citizen
7 commission. The commission will be
8 independent. No current or recent elected
9 official, candidates, political party
10 officials or their aids or spouses would be
11 eligible. Any PA registered voter that
12 meets independent criteria can apply to be
13 part of the commission. The commission will
14 be transparent. It will establish
15 transparent procedures, follow the strict
16 timetable and provide meaningful opportunity
17 for the public input prior to withdrawing
18 the plans and, again, before adopting the
19 final plans. All information will be
20 available on a publically accessible website
21 and the commission will be impartial and
22 ethically bound.

23 When developing these new district
24 boundaries, the commission will not be
25 allowed to consider prior election results,

1 the party affiliation of registered voters
2 or the addresses of incumbents or any
3 individual.

4 Because we are fast approaching the
5 2020 census and because the change is PA's
6 redistricting procedure would require a
7 state constitutional amendment by voters,
8 timing for the approval of the bill is
9 critical. The first step is turning these
10 two slightly different bills into one final
11 piece of the legislation and it needs to
12 happen by July 2018. Each resolution gives
13 our legislators more evidence that theirs
14 constituents desire to change. So far we
15 have only 159 --

16 MR. WECHSLER: Go ahead.

17 MS. MALONEY: Thank you. So far
18 more than 159 counties, city and municipal
19 government bodies have passed resolutions in
20 support of these bills. Additionally, the
21 Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce has
22 called for support of the bill. So I'm
23 asking you, Council, to join your
24 constituents and please consider passing the
25 resolution to support of fair, fully

1 transparent and partial process of
2 redistricting. Thank you for your time. I
3 can also answer any questions. Thank you
4 for your support, everyone.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Yeah, I think what we
6 would like to do is review what you gave me
7 --

8 MS. MALONEY: Absolutely.

9 MR. WECHSLER: -- and then discuss it
10 next week. We are going to meet the 7th and
11 th 14th and see if we can get some consensus
12 on it and go from there.

13 MS. MALONEY: All right. See you on
14 the 7th.

15 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Dave
16 Dobrzyn.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
18 Dave Dobrzyn, resident, taxes paid, fees
19 paid. Once again we had a county
20 commissioner here a few weeks back and I was
21 unable to attend last week, but a reading of
22 Fine Print by David K. Johnston and it's
23 investigative journalist, economist at a
24 prestigious college and former tax lawyer
25 and former IRS employee. What began as an

1 effort by Kentucky to help a single company
2 in Appalachia raise capital by keeping state
3 income taxes withheld from worker's
4 paychecks have grown to more than 2,700
5 companies in 19 states worker's paychecks --
6 when this book was first published, the big
7 banks, carmakers, insurers, a host of
8 Canadian, European, Japanese companies all
9 get the profit by pocketing the taxes
10 withheld from American worker's paychecks.
11 Since the Fine Print came out in hardback,
12 two more states have joined the trend,
13 Oregon and Pennsylvania.

14 Now, Act 76 prescribes for two more
15 percentage points to be deducted from
16 employees' paychecks to support schools and
17 I contend that they wouldn't even have
18 enough money that they would stop passing it
19 out the back door. And a little addition,
20 if go to DCreport.org you can find out more
21 about this offer and read many more
22 articles.

23 Now, once again, it was mentioned on
24 PILOTS. PILOTS are sent down a black hole.
25 PILOTS are sent down a rat hole. PILOTS are

1 payments in lieu of taxes, they are usually
2 only 5 percent of what honestly would be
3 owed if it was a private corporation or
4 private property. And where did I get to
5 decide? I felt that the stadium we had was
6 -- the Scranton/Lackawanna stadium was fine
7 enough. We could have done a few
8 renovations and called it quits, but no, we
9 spent \$60 million, I think, and raised
10 county taxes 38 percent, and it goes on and
11 on and on. We tear it down perfectly good
12 facilities and put up new ones. Schools, we
13 abandon schools and don't renovate, they
14 just put a new one up and then the taxes go
15 up 25 percent, 38 percent, and the city has
16 been on the same group, so don't complain
17 with money down the rat hole, tax exempt
18 properties, and it wouldn't hurt for the
19 state and the county to start kicking in
20 here.

21 And this issue on gerrymandering, I
22 had an idea where we had a straight order, I
23 don't know if anybody can see this, but they
24 would have to move a border, expand it, have
25 to reduce the population in that district

1 and contract. Say if Billy got more they
2 would have smaller borders, and that's just
3 the general drawing, but they have something
4 similar here where it's more like on line
5 with a circle and instead of an equal lot
6 that hit the wall because you went like
7 this, and it happens to have a lot of rhyme
8 and reason why it looks like that and no
9 more pink hearts, green clovers, yellow
10 moons, and orange stars. They're always
11 after me, lucky charms. Always after me,
12 lucky charms.

13 So, you know, the last election we
14 had the speaker of the House in Pennsylvania
15 stand up and say, well, we guarantee the
16 election for Romney because of our
17 redistricting and that's not right. That's
18 not right. Certainly Romney didn't win and
19 I'm pretty glad, I don't think so. And, by
20 the way, down in Washington forget about
21 your tax deep cuts, pay the bills for a
22 change. Thank you and have a good night.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: Marie Schumacher.
25 First, I would like to question whether you

1 people are prepared to really vote on the
2 budget, 7-B on tonight's agenda. We don't
3 have answers to the questions, and I would
4 just ask one and if any one person can
5 answer it I'll say you are ready to go. How
6 much of the matching funds for the Electric
7 City garage have we expended? Nobody knows.
8 How can you vote for a budget where maybe if
9 all happens next year there is no money in
10 the budget for that item and lots of other
11 question. Mr. Gaughan, did you get all of
12 the answers to yours?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: I received a copy when
14 I came tonight to the meeting, I haven't had
15 time to review it. They submitted it late
16 this afternoon, so I haven't even had time
17 to look at it.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, I think it
19 doesn't have to be done until the 15th of
20 December, I think you need to table it
21 tonight until we have more answers than
22 questions. And then I guess next I just
23 wanted to call to your attention in case you
24 missed it in yesterday's Times about the
25 park, another downtown park that -- I mean,

1 I question how many downtown parks do we
2 need? This is not a city project, although
3 I'm sure you will get involved at some
4 point, but I don't think we need the Linden
5 and Wyoming Avenue park at all. We need
6 that back on tax roles.

7 What about the storm water study, do
8 we have a copy of that for public review?

9 MR. WECHSLER: I'll have something
10 to say in comments about that.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, thank you.
12 And just a couple of other items, are you
13 all satisfied, are you going to vote on
14 whether you are satisfied with the double --
15 or with the third party administrator plan
16 that was approved yesterday by the Composite
17 Pension Board? Does that satisfy your
18 requirements for --

19 MR. EVANS: I think under
20 circumstances it's probably the best we are
21 going to get.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Sad.

23 MR. EVANS: Well, it is --

24 MS. SCHUMACHER: We deserve the
25 best, not the best we can give but the best.

1 MR. WECHSLER: They are the only
2 ones that bid on it. We only had one
3 bidder.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: But that is a far
5 cry from the third party administrator.
6 They are just making appointments
7 essentially, so it's certainly not a -- that
8 was never nationally advertised but if you
9 guys are willing to settle I guess we just
10 need to get used to that.

11 What about the status of the zoning
12 update and redoing the condemnation
13 procedure?

14 MR. EVANS: Well, I know the
15 application for a grant is in process. I'll
16 check with George Kelly from the county, he
17 is the one that is doing that and see what
18 the status is on that. I'm think we are
19 going to start working on the condemnation
20 policy on the first quarter of next year
21 hopefully.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay, hopefully.
23 It's been long promised.

24 MR. EVANS: Yes.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: No delivery though.

1 And then whatever happened to our vacuum
2 trucks? I know we had them because I saw
3 them with my very own eyes, unlike the
4 paving truck, I mean, are they being
5 refurbished so they can be reused? Were
6 they sold?

7 MR. WECHSLER: The vacuum trucks
8 work but they are not reliable and they are
9 in the process of upgrading them, but right
10 now they are not reliable.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: So are we going to
12 tried them in on new ones or are we just
13 keep bagging and if so I think we need to
14 better educate the public on the -- with the
15 bill, I think that --

16 MR. ROGAN: I know right now there
17 are two trucks that are operational. I had
18 some discussions with the DPW, two of the
19 four trucks are operational, personally I
20 don't think that's the right way to collect
21 leaves because you run into so many
22 problems.

23 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, okay.

24 MR. ROGAN: But right now there is
25 two trucks.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: So there is two
2 trucks out of four.

3 MR. ROGAN: Two out of four.

4 MS. SCHUMACHER: When is the ABM
5 meeting? We are starting the last month of
6 the --

7 MR. WECHSLER: I'll have that in
8 comments.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, good. On 5-D,
10 I don't know this we should be giving -- as
11 a citizen, I feel that you people are
12 responsible. I don't always like what you
13 do, but you are responsible for protecting
14 our dollars and to give a quarter of a
15 million dollars to Scranton Tomorrow I think
16 is just giving too much power away, if I may
17 finish that thought, I think you need to
18 find a way to do it out project by project
19 so that we know what we are getting and when
20 we are going to get it. Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you. Anyone
22 else?

23 MR. YOUNG: Good evening, Council.
24 Al Young, Scranton resident. Well, I see we
25 finally got a report from Reilly. Here we

1 go again. Twenty months ago I stood here in
2 front of council and asked for your help to
3 repair the hole in the yard. 17 months ago
4 you put money aside in order to have the
5 hole repaired properly. Now the report
6 comes back and it has eight property
7 involved, not two, with four options. Two
8 of them were concrete conduits, two of them
9 are plastic pipe that is passable for code.

10 Now, apparently the way I read this
11 report, and I hope you all have gotten the
12 report. If not, you better get it, and
13 study it hard. I have digested this thing
14 really well, and the way I look at it the
15 city has chosen the worst case scenario,
16 option number four, without even considering
17 going back and talking to any of the
18 residents that are involved in this 1700
19 block of Wyoming Avenue. And I say, I hope
20 you council members have received this
21 report, if not, please get one and study it.

22 Now, if you know what -- and did get
23 the report and you know what is it in, you
24 can see that option four is not the way to
25 go. It has too many variables. There is

1 too many crooks and crannies in the new line
2 the way they have it written. I was always
3 taught that the shortest distance between
4 two lines or that the path of least
5 resistance is a straight line, not come out
6 from Braxton Avenue at a 30 degree angle,
7 travel 20 feet and then take a 60 degree
8 angle to go up through the properties,
9 instead of using the original conduit.
10 Option two has the original concrete -- or
11 the concrete abutment, and option four has
12 too many bends in it.

13 Now, I realize that option two has
14 four garages that have to be torn down,
15 three of them right now are unable -- the
16 are people are unable to use them. The
17 fourth one, I was told by the engineer to be
18 prepared because the way it's going to go
19 the underneath has decayed at that point.

20 So option four says because of the
21 way they are changing the path of the creek
22 they are going to take my deck, my next door
23 neighbor's deck, my shed and move it. Now,
24 when you move something, tear it apart, it's
25 old, it doesn't go back together properly.

1 I spent three weeks trying to fit the new
2 deck floor this week so that it looked -- or
3 this past summer so it looked decent.

4 Now, with option four the way it
5 shows in the schematic here that the creek
6 will come within six to eight feet from my
7 foundation. This is not acceptable. Now,
8 they say that they are going to backfill the
9 holes, all right, fill the holes. My hole
10 is big enough you could dump a couple of
11 truckloads in here, the next door neighbor
12 has a hole in here you are going to dump a
13 truck load in, but that leaves a void in
14 every other spot that the fill does not go
15 and then what happens when you get a freeze
16 and thaw down the line? You get a cave in
17 and city is going to say, "Well, we are
18 there and we repaired this, it's your
19 problem."

20 Sorry, I don't go along with this.
21 So I would hope that the council would
22 consider getting a meeting with the
23 residents somewhere along the lines and sit
24 down with the engineers and explain this
25 thing. The way I look at it it's very

1 unacceptable.

2 And then I would like you to, if you
3 don't like what I'm saying I would like you
4 to consider option number five instead and
5 that is repair the Young and Kennedy
6 properties on the old conduit and let the
7 "me too's" that are come along afterwards
8 sit and beg for the 20 months that I have
9 been here pounding on your podium. And, by
10 the way, you are going to need easements on
11 all of these properties, if you chose option
12 four the Kennedys and the Youngs will not
13 sign it. Thank you for your time.

14 MR. WECHSLER: Anyone else?

15 MS. REED: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.

16 MOTIONS.

17 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Perry?

18 MR. PERRY: I have no motions at
19 this time, I'll reserve all comments for the
20 agenda items. Thank you.

21 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Rogan?

22 MR. ROGAN: Also nothing at this
23 time. Thank you.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Mr. Evans?

25 MR. EVANS: Wow. I'm going to break

1 the string a little bit. I'm just going to
2 comment briefly on the application of Ms.
3 Johns that was sent to the Pennsylvania
4 Historical and Museum Commission, it was
5 completed. She worked with the
6 Architectural Heritage Association. We have
7 a letter from city council as well as a
8 letter from the mayor in support so we just
9 wish her well and hopefully that will come
10 back approved. That's all I have.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you.

12 Mr. Gaughan?

13 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, thank you. Just
14 on the leaf vacuum, I would just like to get
15 clarification. I know we have two trucks
16 that are going around the city apparently,
17 but what is confusing to people is that they
18 are being told to bag their leaves and then
19 they are seeing the leaf vacuum coming
20 around in certain neighborhoods, so there is
21 miscommunication and people aren't really
22 sure exactly what to do so I think we need
23 to really get that together.

24 I did receive a complaint about pave
25 cuts in the area of Mineral Avenue so we

1 have been in touch with the pave cut
2 inspector and believe the pave cut inspector
3 was in with the gentlemen that reached out
4 to me. I'll be interested to hear about the
5 heating with NDC and ABM, hopefully we can
6 get that done before 2018 because I have
7 several questions, as I think everybody
8 does. There was an e-mail from -- the
9 solicitor for the city solicitor and George
10 Kelly asking for an update on the estimates
11 for remediation of the property at Linden
12 Street and Wyoming Avenue and from what
13 Mr. Wechsler said in the caucus that issue
14 is going to be brought up on whether or not
15 we should purchase that property next week.

16 I have asked this question before
17 and I would like to ask again that we send a
18 letter to Mr. Shrive, the executive director
19 of the Scranton Sewer Authority, on whether
20 or not the authority has insurance. A few
21 months ago, there was an issue where the
22 insurer of the Scranton Sewer Authority had
23 pulled it, pulled insurance on the authority
24 and I don't think whether it's still in
25 limbo, but I would like clarification on

1 that.

2 I want to congratulate and thank
3 Mrs. Maloney who got up and spoke in support
4 of gerrymandering. I have had several
5 conversations with her before and I also
6 support ending gerrymandering. I would
7 support that resolution and I think
8 generally it's about transparency and it's
9 about fairness so I'm looking forward to
10 being able to vote on that in the coming
11 weeks and I will hold the rest of my
12 comments for agenda items. Thank you.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Thank you,
14 Mr. Gaughan. First of all, the NDC meeting
15 will held on Monday, the 4th, at 10 a.m. it
16 will be in the Governor's Room. For right
17 now that's going to be a meeting for the
18 board of directors only. We are supposed to
19 get the agenda I believe tomorrow for the
20 meeting. That meeting will be a closed
21 meeting as of right now.

22 In regards to the Arcadis study, I
23 attended a meeting last Monday, the meeting
24 withheld the interested party, included the
25 Pennsylvania American Water and the Sewer

1 Authority, the city, and the Lackawanna
2 River Corridor Association. The meeting was
3 a lively discussion concerning plans to move
4 forward with the storm water management
5 study, as of currently right now there is no
6 formal study, there is no study passed out.
7 There is plans and discussions, but right
8 now there is no formal study to be passed
9 out.

10 In regards to the Civil War Museum,
11 we did have an issue with the access to the
12 rest rooms, that's been worked on, but the
13 administration and seeing that all parties
14 are satisfied with that now and the lease is
15 going to be ready to be signed for the Civil
16 War Museum this week.

17 I had a discussion today with
18 representatives from the county concerning
19 the RSF property on Wyoming Avenue.
20 Currently the plans are for the County to
21 submit grants for remediation for that
22 property. Unfortunately, that property is
23 not eligible for grants while it's privately
24 held so my recommendation is going to be
25 that we bring the issue back to city council

1 next week for an up or down vote but in
2 order for the any remediation to take place
3 the city or nonprofit has to have possession
4 of that property, so I'm going to recommend
5 myself that we vote for the city to move
6 forward with the purchase and that will
7 allow the county to start applying for
8 remediation grants, and that's all I have.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: Can I just add one
10 more thing just on the NDC and ABM meeting?
11 You know, I really think that this meeting
12 should be open to the public, and whether
13 whose control that's under I don't know, but
14 we have a lease with them so, you know, we
15 have a vested interest in what is going on
16 with the parking garages and I know that one
17 of the responses is to go to the Parking
18 Authority meeting but that meeting with NDC
19 and ABM should be open to the public and we
20 should be able to attend -- council members
21 should be able to attend and I was under the
22 impression that we would be able to meet
23 with them in an open setting and be able to
24 ask questions and ask for an update on the
25 progress that they have made and what's

1 going to happen in 2018, so I would ask that
2 we request that they open it up to the
3 public. I don't see what the difference is.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, I mean, we could
6 make that request but you have to remember
7 that NDC is a private company. Just like
8 any other company, they have a board of
9 directors and the board of directors met at
10 their pleasure. I will request that it be
11 open. I have not received the agenda yet so
12 I'm not sure if there is a public portion to
13 it, but all the meetings we had in the past
14 have been amongst the board members only.

15 MR. EVANS: I hate to jump in on
16 your motion, but Councilman Wechsler is
17 correct that was part of the agreement to
18 handle the meetings that way but I think if
19 this meeting is not public then I think we
20 should call our own meeting with NDC and ABM
21 hopefully the first quarter of January.

22 MR. WECHSLER: They are not going to
23 do that.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: And just to add, I was
25 under the impression that that's what we are

1 doing was asking for a meeting with them in
2 public with council.

3 MR. WECHSLER: We have asked for
4 that and they have not responded. So this
5 is a regularly scheduled meeting of the NDC
6 board.

7 MS. REED: 5-B. FOR INTRODUCTION -
8 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
9 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO APPROVE
10 THE TRANSFER OF TWO MILLION (\$2,000,000.00)
11 DOLLARS FROM ACCOUNT NO. 01.101031 (FNCB
12 BANK-SEWER CLEARING ACCOUNT) TO ACCOUNT NO.
13 01.100000 (PNC BANK-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT)
14 FOR THE NECESSARY CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDING FOR
15 2018.

16 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
17 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
18 introduced into its proper committee.

19 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

20 MR. EVANS: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
23 I'm going to vote to introduce this tonight
24 for further discussion, and I'll speak more
25 about this when we get to Seventh Order and

1 vote on the budget, but I'll ask next week
2 that we table this because I do not believe
3 that we should be spending any of the
4 proceeds from the sale of the Sewer
5 Authority until we get clear directive from
6 a judge on whether the sale was actually
7 legal and we can expend this money, and I'll
8 talk about that more in Seventh Order but,
9 you know, and I have said this for the past
10 couple of months, I still have a concern
11 that there is possibility we may have to pay
12 this money back so I don't think it's a
13 smart move at this point and if you look at
14 our neighbors in Dunmore they have not spent
15 any of the proceeds of the money, their
16 portion of the sale of the Sewer authority
17 yet because of the litigation. Thank you.

18 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
19 introduction signify by saying aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 5-C. FOR INTRODUCTION -
2 AN ORDINANCE - APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF A
3 RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE OWNED BY CBTB,
4 LLC, D/B/A CORNER BISTRO CURRENTLY IN SAFE
5 KEEPING WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL
6 BOARD FORMERLY USED AT 76-78 SOUTH MAIN
7 STREET, CARBONDALE, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
8 PENNSYLVANIA, 18407 FOR USE AT 429 NORTH
9 MAIN AVENUE, SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
10 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS REQUIRED BY THE
11 PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

12 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
13 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
14 introduced into its proper committee.

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. EVANS: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
18 those in favor of introduction signify by
19 saying aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 5-D. FOR INTRODUCTION -
2 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
3 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO ALLOCATE
4 \$250,000 FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS ON
5 A MATCHING BASIS TO SCRANTON TOMORROW TO
6 FURTHER THE PROSPECTS OF ECONOMIC
7 REVITALIZATION IN THE DOWNTOWN SECTION OF
8 THE CITY OF SCRANTON.

9 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
10 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
11 introduced into its proper committee.

12 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

15 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question,
16 again, I'll be voting to introduce this, but
17 I do have reservations about this whole set
18 up. Number one, because we are using money
19 from the proceeds from the Sewer Authority
20 to fund this initiative -- or not fund it
21 but to give funding towards the \$250,000 at
22 this point and the total of \$500,000 from
23 economic development funds that are going to
24 towards this project. On top of that, we
25 are funding a portion of this as well for

1 \$75,000 and that's an increase from the
2 \$32,500 that was budgeted in 2017. On it's
3 face, I don't disagree with some of the
4 initiatives that were in the backup and I
5 think overall, you know, I agree with the
6 program, but I don't agree with essentially
7 in my opinion subcontracting out our
8 economic development services for Scranton
9 Tomorrow, but at the same time funding the
10 salaries for people who work in Scranton
11 Tomorrow. We are looking over a three-year
12 period at close to a half a million or half
13 a million dollars in salaries, \$70,000 for
14 the executive director, \$45,000 for the
15 marketing and events manager and so on and
16 so forth.

17 I also have some additional
18 questions that I'll be posing to the
19 administration and hopefully we will be able
20 to get those answers before final vote.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. EVANS: On the question, I'm in
23 full support of this funding. This is an
24 outgrowth of a recommendation from a study
25 done by the National Resource Network. This

1 money begin the process of reinventing and
2 probably reinvigorating Scranton Tomorrow in
3 to an organization that will within a
4 three-year time frame lead us to the
5 creation of business improvement district or
6 a BID in the downtown.

7 The rest of the cities across the
8 country and in Pennsylvania have seen the
9 BID concept lead to a more robust, cleaner,
10 greener and business friendly downtown
11 commercial district. BIDS are true economic
12 drivers and I would expect the same from
13 ours when it does happen. Our downtown is
14 the core of our city and it wasn't long ago
15 that our city core was hollowed out and
16 outgoing in the wrong direction, but because
17 of visionary developers like Charlie
18 Jefferson and Art Russo, Don Amato, John
19 Basalyga, the Rinaldi family and others, we
20 are finally moving in the right direction,
21 but it is important that we continue with
22 that momentum and this is one of the ways
23 that we can achieve that. Sometimes the
24 rule of thumb is to facilitate change than
25 just get out of way and think that's a

1 perfect example of that concept so I will be
2 supportive of this legislation.

3 MR. ROGAN: I couldn't agree more
4 with what Councilman Evans just said,
5 particularly on that last point that this
6 will allow the government to help without
7 standing in the way. Our economic
8 development office is good at some things
9 and there is other things that another
10 organization would be better to handle.
11 This is one of those items. The idea of
12 having a BID, business improvement district,
13 I think would be a home run where you would
14 have tax dollars reinvested back into a
15 particular district and small businesses are
16 going to be what bring Scranton back. We
17 have already seen a number of small
18 businesses open up in the city and doing
19 very well, small boutique shops and some
20 larger medium-sized businesses, but it's the
21 small business person that's going to bring
22 the city back, and I have had a number of
23 meetings with people involved on this
24 project as well as some nonprofits and
25 business interests as well and everyone is

1 very excited about this as I was as well.

2 So be looking forward to supporting this.

3 MR. WECHSLER: As Mr. Rogan stated,
4 OECD does a good job at what they do, but
5 sometimes they are restricted ins what areas
6 they can invest money in because of the low
7 to moderate income requirements. Allowing
8 Scranton Tomorrow be become involved in this
9 kind of opens that up to some more areas
10 that perhaps would not be touched by federal
11 funding. I have attended a few of these
12 meetings also in terms of this project, the
13 committee that's been formed to work on this
14 is a cross-section of our entire region of
15 people working to improve the downtown.
16 It's a great combination of public and
17 private people working together and I think
18 is a good step towards revitalization of the
19 downtown.

20 All those in favor of introduction
21 signify by saying aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
2 ayes have it and so moved.

3 MS. REED: 5-E. FOR INTRODUCTION -
4 AN ORDINANCE - ESTABLISHING A "NO PARKING
5 ZONE" ALONG THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF GREEN
6 RIDGE ST (S.R.6011) BEGINNING APPROXIMATELY
7 150 FEET WEST FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH
8 PENN AVENUE AND CONTINUING 80 FEET TO ALLOW
9 FOR SIGHT DISTANCE FOR A PROPOSED DRIVEWAY
10 BY MR. GEORGE JENKINS FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED
11 AT 921 GREEN RIDGE ST.

12 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
13 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
14 introduced into its proper committee.

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. EVANS: Second.

17 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
18 those in favor of introduction signify by
19 saying aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 5-F. FOR INTRODUCTION -
2 AN ORDINANCE - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
3 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
4 AND ENTER INTO A PENSION TRUST AGREEMENT
5 WITH THE COMPOSITE PENSION BOARD TO HOLD
6 APPROXIMATELY \$22,910,531.56 OF THE PROCEEDS
7 FROM THE SALE OF THE ASSETS OF THE SCRANTON
8 SEWER AUTHORITY IN TRUST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS
9 PENSION REFORMS HAVE BEEN ENACTED.

10 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
11 entertain a motion that Item 5-F be
12 introduced into its proper committee.

13 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

14 MR. EVANS: Second.

15 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

16 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, in
17 the caucus tonight I asked if we could have
18 a public caucus with the administration next
19 week or before final passage of this item to
20 go through everything for an exclamation and
21 also to answer some questions. Number one,
22 I would like to know if any of the proceeds
23 from the sale of the Sewer Authority that
24 have been put into escrow \$5 million for
25 representation and warranties and \$12

1 million in escrow for easements, if any of
2 that has been drawn down yet and, if so, how
3 much is left in both of these accounts? And
4 I'm assuming that this money, whatever is
5 left from those two escrow accounts, will be
6 deposited into the pension funds eventually.

7 I'd also like to know what the
8 schedule of deposit looks like. Will a
9 dollar cost averaging method be used for the
10 release of proceeds into the plan, I'm
11 assuming it will be but I'd like
12 clarification on that. There is also on top
13 of this trust the possible creation of
14 post-employment benefits other than pension
15 trusts, so I would like further
16 clarification on what that will look like
17 and what that process will look like.

18 And I'd also like it know if the
19 Pension Board is enforcing the process of
20 reducing pension payments disabled retirees
21 if they become reemployed. Over the past
22 couple of months, a year or two, we have
23 been talking about the Klodack (ph) Act
24 provision, if someone who has a disability
25 pension goes and gets reemployed some place

1 else how that process works and whose that
2 responsibility lying with, is it the third
3 party administrator, is it the board, is it
4 the existing administrator Anderson & d
5 Associates? So I would like clarification
6 on that I believe the public caucus will be
7 able to take care of that. Thank you.

8 MR. EVANS: On the question, I would
9 definitely concur with that. I have some
10 other questions on what is going to be put
11 in trust as far as performance is concerned.
12 I have been comitted to additional reforms
13 as well as another buy down of .5 percent of
14 the rate of return. I think that's
15 important and we have to make sure that's in
16 there. The former rate of term was 8
17 percent, it was reduced to 7.5 percent
18 because the COLA is not being paid to
19 retirees, but I would like to see a buy down
20 of another 5 percent so it's down to 7
21 percent and I want to make sure that's part
22 of the trust, so I would definitely be
23 agreeable to having somebody -- the
24 administration come to discuss that.

25 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of

1 introduction signify by saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 5-G. FOR INTRODUCTION -
9 A RESOLUTION - ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION
10 OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE REVIEW BOARD
11 ("HARB") AND APPROVING THE CERTIFICATE OF
12 APPROPRIATENESS FOR LOCKER GENERAL
13 CONSTRUCTION, P.O. BOX 206, OLYPHANT, PA,
14 18447, TO INSTALL A DIGITAL BILLBOARD, WHICH
15 ROUGHLY MEASURES 8 FEET HIGH BY 23
16 FEET WIDE, BETWEEN THE SECOND AND THIRD
17 FLOORS AND A PAINTED SIGN ABOVE THE DIGITAL
18 BILLBOARD COMPARABLE TO BITTENBENDER'S
19 SIGNAGE, SITUATED AT 134 FRANKLIN AVENUE,
20 SCRANTON, PA 18503.

21 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
22 entertain a motion that Item 5-G be
23 introduced into its proper committee.

24 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

25 MR. EVANS: Second.

1 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
2 those in favor of introduction signify by
3 saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: 5-H. FOR INTRODUCTION -
11 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
12 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
13 AND ENTER INTO A MASTER LEASE AGREEMENT
14 BETWEEN THE CITY OF SCRANTON, HEREINAFTER
15 DESIGNATED ("LESSOR") AND NEW CINGULAR
16 WIRELESS PCS, LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED
17 LIABILITY COMPANY, WITH ITS PRINCIPAL
18 OFFICES AT 575 MOROSGO DRIVE, ATLANTA, GA
19 30324, HEREINAFTER DESIGNATED ("LESSEE") TO
20 LEASE SPACE TO LESSEE WITH RESPECT TO
21 PARTICULAR SITES AT WHICH LESSEE WISHES TO
22 INSTALL, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE, SMALL CELL
23 COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AS WELL AS ANY AND
24 ALL NECESSARY LEASE SUPPLEMENTS OUTLINED
25 HEREIN.

1 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
2 entertain a motion that Item 5-H be
3 introduced into its proper committee.

4 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

5 MR. EVANS: Second.

6 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
7 those in favor of introduction signify by
8 saying aye.

9 MR. PERRY: Aye.

10 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

11 MR. EVANS: Aye.

12 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
14 ayes have it and so moved.

15 MS. REED: 5-I. FOR INTRODUCTION -
16 A RESOLUTION - APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTE A.
17 CASCIANO, SR., 301 NORTON AVENUE, SCRANTON,
18 PENNSYLVANIA, 18504 AS BUSINESS
19 ADMINISTRATOR EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 20, 2017.
20 MR. CASCIANO WILL BE REPLACING DAVID BULZONI
21 WHO RESIGNED AS BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR.

22 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
23 entertain a motion that Item 5-I be
24 introduced into its proper committee.

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 MR. GAUGHAN: On the question, I
4 just want to wish Mr. Casciano the best of
5 luck in his new position and congratulate
6 him on that and look forward to working with
7 him over the next few years. Thank you.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I would just
9 like to echo those remarks. He has big
10 shoes to fill. Dave Bulzoni did an awesome
11 job here in the City of Scranton and we have
12 a good replacement in place.

13 All those in favor of introduction
14 signify by saying aye.

15 MR. PERRY: Aye.

16 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

17 MR. EVANS: Aye.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

19 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
20 ayes have it and so moved.

21 MS. REED: 5-J. FOR INTRODUCTION -
22 A RESOLUTION - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND
23 OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE
24 AND ENTER INTO A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
25 AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL LODGE 2305 OF THE

1 INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS AND
2 AEROSPACE WORKERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
3 TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF A MEMORANDUM OF
4 UNDERSTANDING RATIFIED BY THE MEMBERSHIP.

5 MR. WECHSLER: At this time, I'll
6 entertain a motion that Item 5-J be
7 introduced into its proper committee.

8 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

9 MR. EVANS: Second.

10 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
12 similar to my request with the trust
13 agreement I would also like to ask that we
14 schedule a public caucus with the
15 administration and the city's labor attorney
16 to go over and to explain some of the
17 articles in this contract. I have a few
18 questions on it and I'd also like the
19 administration to provide the cost
20 calculation memo or cost benefit analysis
21 that was mentioned in the contract for each
22 term of the agreement that was prepared by
23 the city.

24 MR. WECHSLER: All those in favor of
25 introduction signify by saying aye.

1 MR. PERRY: Aye.

2 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

3 MR. EVANS: Aye.

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
6 ayes have it and so moved.

7 MS. REED: 5-K. FOR INTRODUCTION – A
8 RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER
9 APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND
10 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HIGHMARK BLUE
11 CROSS BLUE SHIELD TO PROVIDE MEDICAL CLAIMS
12 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO THE CITY OF
13 SCRANTON FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2018
14 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020.

15 MR. EVANS: I make a motion to amend
16 Item 5-K per the following: Amend the
17 contract to reflect that city is selecting
18 option number one only, active employee
19 population only.

20 MR. ROGAN: Second.

21 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
22 those in favor signify by saying aye.

23 MR. PERRY: Aye.

24 MR. EVANS: Aye.

25 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
3 ayes have it and so moved.

4 At this time, I'll entertain a
5 motion that Item 5-K, as amended, be
6 introduced to it's proper committee.

7 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

8 MR. EVANS: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
10 those in favor of introduction signify by
11 saying aye.

12 MR. PERRY: Aye.

13 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

14 MR. EVANS: Aye.

15 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

16 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
17 ayes have it and so moved.

18 MS. REED: SIXTH ORDER. 6-A.

19 READING BY TITLE - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
20 128, 2017 - AN ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF
21 THE COUNCIL NO. 6, 1976 ENTITLED "AN
22 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) IMPOSING A TAX FOR
23 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES ON THE TRANSFER OF
24 REAL PROPERTY SITUATE WITHIN THE CITY OF
25 SCRANTON; PRESCRIBING AND REGULATING THE

1 METHOD OF EVIDENCING THE PAYMENT OF SUCH
2 TAX; CONFERRING POWERS AND IMPOSING DUTIES
3 UPON CERTAIN PERSONS, AND PROVIDING
4 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE RATE OF THE
5 REALTY TRANSFER TAX AT TWO AND TWO TENTHS
6 PERCENT (2.2%) FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018 AND
7 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
8 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

9 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
10 by title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

11 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
12 pass reading by title.

13 MR. EVANS: Second.

14 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
15 those in favor signify by saying aye.

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

18 MR. EVANS: Aye.

19 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
21 ayes have it and so moved.

22 MS. REED: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
23 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 129, 2017 - AN
24 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
25 7, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)

1 IMPOSING A MERCANTILE LICENSE TAX OF 2 MILLS
2 FOR THE YEAR 1976 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER
3 UPON PERSONS ENGAGING IN CERTAIN OCCUPATIONS
4 AND BUSINESSES THEREIN; PROVIDING FOR ITS
5 LEVY AND COLLECTION AND FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
6 MERCANTILE LICENSES; CONFERRING AND IMPOSING
7 POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX COLLECTOR OF
8 THE CITY OF SCRANTON; AND IMPOSING
9 PENALTIES", BY IMPOSING THE MERCANTILE
10 LICENSE TAX AT ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR
11 CALENDAR YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN
12 IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY
13 THEREAFTER.

14 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
15 by title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

16 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
17 pass reading by title.

18 MR. EVANS: Second.

19 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
20 those in favor signify by saying aye.

21 MR. PERRY: Aye.

22 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

23 MR. EVANS: Aye.

24 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

25 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The

1 ayes have it and so moved.

2 MS. REED: 6-C. READING BY TITLE -
3 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 130, 2017 - AN
4 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
5 8, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED)
6 PROVIDING FOR THE GENERAL REVENUE BY
7 IMPOSING A TAX AT THE RATE OF TWO (2) MILLS
8 UPON THE PRIVILEGE OF OPERATING OR
9 CONDUCTING BUSINESS IN THE CITY OF SCRANTON
10 AS MEASURED BY THE GROSS RECEIPTS THEREFROM;
11 REQUIRING REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT OF THE
12 TAX AS CONDITION TO THE CONDUCTING OF SUCH
13 BUSINESS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY AND
14 COLLECTION OF SUCH TAX; PRESCRIBING SUCH
15 REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURNS AND RECORDS;
16 CONFERRING POWERS AND DUTIES UPON THE TAX
17 COLLECTOR; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES", BY
18 IMPOSING THE BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX AT THE
19 RATE OF ONE (1) MILL (.001) FOR CALENDAR
20 YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL
21 FORCE AND EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

22 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
23 by title of Item 6-C, what is your pleasure.

24 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-C
25 pass reading by title.

1 MR. EVANS: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
3 those in favor signify by saying aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

6 MR. EVANS: Aye.

7 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
9 ayes have it and so moved.

10 MS. REED: 6-D. READING BY TITLE -
11 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 131, 2017 - AN
12 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
13 11, 1976, ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE (AS
14 AMENDED) ENACTING, IMPOSING A TAX FOR
15 GENERAL REVENUE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF
16 TWO PERCENT (2%) ON EARNED INCOME AND NET
17 PROFITS ON PERSONS, INDIVIDUALS,
18 ASSOCIATIONS AND BUSINESSES WHO ARE
19 RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, OR
20 NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON, FOR
21 WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED OR BUSINESS
22 CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF SCRANTON,
23 REQUIRING THE FILING OF RETURNS BY TAXPAYERS
24 SUBJECT TO THE TAX; REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO
25 COLLECT THE TAX AT SOURCE; PROVIDING FOR THE

1 ADMINISTRATION, COLLECTION AND ENFORCEMENT
2 OF THE SAID TAX; AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
3 THE VIOLATIONS", BY RE-ENACTING THE
4 IMPOSITION OF THE WAGE TAX AT TWO AND FOUR
5 TENTHS (2.4%) PERCENT ON EARNED INCOME FOR
6 RESIDENTS AND ONE (1%) PERCENT ON EARNED
7 INCOME FOR NON-RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF
8 SCRANTON, FOR WORK DONE, SERVICES PERFORMED
9 OR BUSINESS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE CITY OF
10 SCRANTON FOR THE YEAR 2018 AND THE SAME
11 SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT
12 ANNUALLY THEREAFTER.

13 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
14 by title of Item 6-D, what is your pleasure?

15 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-D
16 pass reading by title.

17 MR. EVANS: Second.

18 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
19 those in favor signify by saying aye.

20 MR. PERRY: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. EVANS: Aye.

23 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
25 ayes have it and so moved.

1 MS. REED: 6-E. READING BY TITLE -
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 132, 2017 - AN
3 ORDINANCE - AMENDING FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO.
4 78, 2017, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FILE OF THE
5 COUNCIL NO. 100, 1976, ENTITLED "AN
6 ORDINANCE (AS AMENDED) LEVYING GENERAL AND
7 SPECIAL TAXES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1977", BY
8 SETTING THE MILLAGE FOR THE YEAR 2018 AND
9 THE SAME SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND
10 EFFECT ANNUALLY THEREAFTER BY AMENDING
11 SECTION 1 REVERTING BACK TO THE MILLAGE
12 RATES FROM 2016 WHICH ARE .232521 MILLS LEVY
13 ON LAND AND .050564 LEVY ON ALL BUILDINGS
14 AND BY ELIMINATING THE DEDICATED MILLAGE FOR
15 DEBT SERVICE CONTAINED IN SECTION 2 AND
16 REPLACING THE DEDICATED MILLAGE FOR DEBT
17 SERVICE WITH A DEDICATED DEBT PERCENTAGE OF
18 32% OF REAL ESTATE TAX REVENUES COLLECTED ON
19 A CURRENT YEAR BASIS.

20 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
21 by title of Item 6-E, what is your pleasure?

22 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-E
23 pass reading by title.

24 MR. EVANS: Second.

25 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All

1 those in favor signify by saying aye.

2 MR. PERRY: Aye.

3 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

4 MR. EVANS: Aye.

5 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

6 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
7 ayes have it and so moved.

8 MS. REED: 6-F. READING BY TITLE -
9 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 133, 2017 - AN
10 ORDINANCE - CREATING AND ESTABLISHING
11 SPECIAL CITY ACCOUNT NO. 02.229623 ENTITLED
12 "STREET PAVING" FOR THE RECEIPT AND
13 DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FROM THE DEFEASANCE OF
14 THE 2012 SERIES A AND B BONDS WITH SEWER
15 SALE PROCEEDS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE FUNDS
16 FOR PAVING STREETS THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF
17 SCRANTON.

18 MR. WECHSLER: You've heard reading
19 by title of Item 6-F, what is your pleasure?

20 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-F
21 pass reading by title.

22 MR. EVANS: Second.

23 MR. WECHSLER: On the question? All
24 those in favor signify by saying aye.

25 MR. PERRY: Aye.

1 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

2 MR. EVANS: Aye.

3 MR. GAUGHAN: Aye.

4 MR. WECHSLER: Aye. Opposed? The
5 ayes have it and so moved.

6 MS. REED: SEVENTH ORDER. 7-A. FOR
7 CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE -
8 FOR ADOPTION - FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 124,
9 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF TAX AND
10 REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES, SERIES OF 2018
11 IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO
12 EXCEED \$12,750,000; PROVIDING FOR THE DATE,
13 INTEREST RATE, MATURITY DATE, REDEMPTION
14 PROVISIONS, PAYMENT AND PLACE OF PAYMENT IN
15 RESPECT OF THE NOTES; ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL
16 ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "B" FROM THE
17 FINANCIAL INSTITUTION NAMED THEREIN FOR THE
18 PURCHASE OF THE NOTES; NAMING A SINKING FUND
19 DEPOSITARY/PAYING AGENT; AUTHORIZING THE
20 PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY TO EXECUTE AND
21 DELIVER THE NOTES AND CERTAIN OTHER
22 DOCUMENTS AND CERTIFICATES IN CONNECTION
23 THEREWITH; AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE
24 PREPARATION, CERTIFICATION AND FILING OF THE
25 NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF

1 COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE
2 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA; SETTING FORTH
3 A FORM OF THE NOTES.

4 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
5 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Finance?

7 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
8 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
9 passage of Item 7-A.

10 MR. ROGAN: Second.

11 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
12 Roll call, please?

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

14 MR. PERRY: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

16 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

18 MR. EVANS: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

20 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

22 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
23 declare Item 7-A legally and lawfully
24 adopted.

25 MS. REED: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION BY

1 THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE - FOR ADOPTION -
2 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 125, 2017 -
3 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE EXPENSES OF THE
4 CITY GOVERNMENT FOR THE PERIOD COMMENCING ON
5 THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, 2018 TO AND
6 INCLUDING DECEMBER 31, 2018 BY THE ADOPTION
7 OF THE GENERAL CITY OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE
8 YEAR 2018.

9 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
10 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
11 Committee on Finance?

12 MR. EVANS: As Chairperson for the
13 Committee on Finance, I recommend final
14 passage of Item 7-B.

15 MR. ROGAN: Second.

16 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

17 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question.
18 I'll be voting "no" tonight for final
19 passage of the 2018 budget. Let me preface
20 my comments by saying that I think there has
21 been some progress made financially over the
22 last few years on several fronts and the
23 administration should receive credit for
24 that. However, I still have major concerns
25 with this budget and the city's potential

1 exit from Act 47. First of all, I would
2 like to express my displeasure with the
3 budgetary process this year. As a
4 legislative body, we are tasked with
5 providing oversight on the city's finances
6 among many other things. Two weeks ago we
7 are given the budget on a Wednesday,
8 expected to introduce it on a Thursday, on
9 November 8, and then had a half hour
10 scheduled caucus with the business
11 administrator where we are supposed to ask
12 questions without even having really a
13 chance to review the budget. Then that
14 Friday, that was the business
15 administrator's last day.

16 The following week, I had posed
17 numerous questions asking for some
18 clarification on different items in the
19 budget and I did not receive any answers
20 until late this afternoon and received the
21 adopted document when I came into the
22 meeting tonight without any time to review
23 that information and, you know, in my
24 opinion this is simply unacceptable.

25 As a legislator, you know, we are

1 putting our name on these pieces of
2 legislation and how can we do that when we
3 don't have all of the information and we
4 don't have all of our questions answered. I
5 believe Ms. Schumacher posed several
6 questions and I don't believe they have been
7 answered because we didn't receive any
8 response on them from the administration.
9 That's also unacceptable because people like
10 Ms. Schumacher come every week and ask
11 questions that are legitimate and they pay
12 our salary. Ms. Schumacher, among others,
13 pay our salary so we should not take those
14 questions lightly or ignore them.

15 As it relates to the budget, my
16 first concern, and I talked about this
17 earlier tonight, is -- and I have addressed
18 this over the last few months on numerous
19 occasions is that the mayor is using \$2
20 million of sewer proceeds to fund various
21 capital budget items when the use of these
22 proceeds may be illegal. A legitimate
23 question, what I believe to be a legitimate
24 question, was raised in a lawsuit recently
25 which claims that the state Municipal

1 Authorities Act allows the Scranton Sewer
2 Authority to expend money only for purposes
3 directly elated to it's mission. As such,
4 state law prohibits the Authority from
5 transferring sewer sale proceeds to Scranton
6 and Dunmore for their general welfare. The
7 suit calls for the return of all Scranton
8 Sewer Authority proceeds to the Scranton
9 Sewer Authority.

10 So I don't believe that it's a wise
11 decision at this point to spend any of money
12 and I have been against this before until we
13 can get a clear definitive answer on whether
14 or not it is legal or not and whether or not
15 we may have to pay it back if we would lose
16 that case.

17 Our neighbors, Dunmore, as I
18 mentioned earlier tonight, have decided not
19 spend any of their proceeds from the sewer
20 sale until the lawsuit is resolved, and this
21 decision was lead by Mayor Tim Burk and
22 Councilman Tom Halihan who was quoted in the
23 newspaper as saying, "I think we are siding
24 on the safe side way not spending any of
25 that money."

1 And I also think for once that the
2 city should try to be on the safe side and
3 ensure that it is legal to use these funds.

4 The mayor and the Sewer Authority
5 has decided to ignore my repeated questions
6 as to why the Sewer Authority is still in
7 operation and why the mayor has not filed
8 the proper paperwork, determination
9 certificate based on the resolution that was
10 passed by this council terminating the
11 Authority and dissolving it and filing that
12 paperwork with the state.

13 Keep in mind that ratepayers are
14 still shelling out \$130,000 a year for an
15 executive director of an authority with no
16 employees. For this reason alone, I will
17 not be able to in good conscience vote for
18 this budget.

19 My second concern has to do with the
20 pension and MMO payment. In this year's
21 budget, there is a significant decrease of
22 roughly \$5.8 million mainly because of the
23 suspension of the cost of living adjustments
24 payments that police and fire retirees. The
25 suspension occurred because of the pension

1 being labeled as severely distressed, which
2 we all know that is by the Auditor General.
3 The three-year exit plan shows a balanced
4 budget each year mainly because of this
5 reduction in pension expenses, and that is a
6 good thing. My concern, however, is that
7 after the sewer proceeds and what's left in
8 escrow for easements are deposited into the
9 pension fund when that happens, if it's even
10 legal at this point we still don't know, at
11 what point does the distressed label for the
12 pension get removed, because when it gets
13 removed the cost of living adjustment
14 increases will restart and that will be an
15 added other expense to the budget. COLA
16 increases, obviously, require more funding
17 and are an obligation the city agreed to
18 under previous contract. The amount of
19 funding that's going to be required, if they
20 restart, I'm not sure because I don't know
21 the exact impact the sewer deposit is going
22 to have on the funds since I haven't seen an
23 actuarial study yet on that.

24 Another question that I have is
25 whether or not the city will be required to

1 provide retroactive costs of living
2 adjustment increases to retirees for the
3 years that that was suspended. So if the
4 retirees end up suing the city will we have
5 to pay them back pay for when it was
6 suspended? And, if so, should we be
7 accounting for this expense? So we are
8 seeing a large reduction in pension expenses
9 but if we look down the road and this comes
10 to light that the pension distress label
11 gets removed, then we are right back where
12 we started because we are now underfunding
13 the pension again, at least that's my take
14 on it.

15 So my question is are we kicking the
16 can down the road and ignoring the
17 possibility that at some point the COLA
18 increases are going to start again, possibly
19 within the next three years, and what effect
20 will this have on the budget and most
21 importantly, what effect will it have on our
22 exit from Act 47.

23 And, finally, again this is another
24 point that I have made, neither the budget
25 or the recovery plan take into consideration

1 the negative impact an adverse court opinion
2 would have in any one of the pending
3 lawsuits against the city on our finances in
4 exiting from Act 47. So for those reasons,
5 I will be voting "no." Thank you.

6 MR. ROGAN: Real quickly on the
7 budget, I'll be voting "yes". I'm very
8 proud to be voting "yes" for a no tax
9 increase budget for the second year in a
10 row. Obviously, the taxpayers have been
11 overburdened and we need to move that even
12 downward but back-to-back years with no tax
13 increases is something that I know many
14 communities are certainly hoping for. I
15 know last year when taxes didn't go up
16 people said well, it's just because of the
17 election. Well, the election is over and
18 taxes still aren't going up and that's
19 because the city, thanks to the mayor and
20 thanks to the council, is in a much better
21 position financially than we were a number
22 of years ago. There is a still a ton of
23 work that needs to be done but we are in a
24 much better financial position and all in
25 all those are things within the budget

1 because it just a multi- very thick stack.
2 There are things in there that I think every
3 one of us isn't completely happy with. All
4 in all, this is how much -- and most
5 importantly for the taxpayers is that it
6 holds the line on taxes and actually has a
7 small decrease for taxes on the real estate
8 transfer tax, so I'll be very happy to vote
9 "yes" for this budget.

10 MR. WECHSLER: Yes, just a few
11 comments on the budget. I congratulate
12 Dunmore to be able to not spend any of the
13 sewer proceeds. Unfortunately, Scranton was
14 never in that position. We had several
15 large term bond obligations that had to be
16 repaid. We had -- as discussed this
17 evening, we had to lower the interest
18 assumption on our pension fund. These are
19 things that had to happen now. The concerns
20 that Mr. Gaughan have our legitimate
21 concerns, but the interesting thing about
22 those is four years ago when we got in the
23 pension was out of money, now we are talking
24 about -- worried about the pension has too
25 much money, so that's a good problem to have

1 and his concerns are legitimate, but none of
2 those are going to hit in 2018. The pension
3 will not be in severely distressed status
4 this year. There will probably not be any
5 COLAs passed out because we are not going to
6 be out of distressed status with that and we
7 should start planning for the future when
8 things may be different, but right now this
9 budget addresses where the city is at this
10 year. It's a real budget.

11 I'm fortunate to attend the last few
12 PEL meetings. The plan that was laid out in
13 2017 worked fairly well and it looks like we
14 are going to make our MM0 payment on time
15 and these are all things that are coming
16 together because of our budgeting process,
17 so although there are some concerns, as
18 Mr. Rogan said, I think this is good budget,
19 it's a workable budget, it has been approved
20 by our coordinator of the Pennsylvania
21 Economy League and in the end it's up to the
22 administration to be responsible for the
23 transition and operation of the budget and I
24 think they are prepared to do so, so I will
25 be voting "yes".

1 MR. EVANS: On the question.

2 Budgets by their very definition are really
3 living and breathing documents. They're at
4 times more heart than even science or math
5 so I view the budget in totality as being a
6 positive document. Is it perfect? Of
7 course. This document doesn't exist in a
8 world of assumptions and historical data
9 that sometimes is based on some past false
10 premises, but there are some positive
11 takeaways in my mind in this budget. There
12 is some small salary increases, while
13 unpopular to many I'm fully supportive of
14 salary increases to key cabinet members and
15 nonunion personnel. To retain and attract
16 the talent that we really need to move this
17 city forward we must pay them appropriate
18 wage. Many are still at 2003 levels or near
19 that 2003 level. So not to address that
20 issue in my opinion would have been
21 short-sided.

22 There are increases in funding for
23 Scranton Tomorrow in a city that sorely
24 lacks economic development initiatives is
25 positive to me. There is also a funding

1 increase to the Shade Tree Commission. Tony
2 Santoli has been operating and maintaining
3 our tree population on budgetary fumes. To
4 me, this is a quality of life issue and I'm
5 in favor of it and I know Tony will do an
6 unbelievable job with any additional
7 funding.

8 The budget puts back a position of
9 the Director of Parks and Rec. Again, this
10 is another quality of life issue and creates
11 an opportunity to have a legitimate parks
12 system and removes this department from
13 under the shadow of the Department of Public
14 Works and, of course, there is a reduction
15 to the real estate transfer tax. That I'll
16 discuss further next week.

17 So I'd like to thank Dave Bulzoni
18 for only crafting this, his final budget,
19 but more importantly or listening to me and
20 all of us on city council though his time on
21 the BA I think that made the world of
22 difference in the last four years with
23 previous budgets and this one is moving
24 forward. That's all I have on the budget.
25 I will be voting "yes".

1 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

2 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

3 MR. PERRY: Yes.

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

5 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

7 MR. EVANS: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

9 MR. GAUGHAN: No.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

11 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
12 declare Item 7-B legally and lawfully
13 adopted.

14 MS. REED: 7-C. FOR CONSIDERATION BY
15 THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
16 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 126, 2017 -
17 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
18 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
19 TRAIL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY
20 OF SCRANTON AND LACKAWANNA HERITAGE VALLEY
21 AUTHORITY FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF
22 THE LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL (THE
23 "TRAIL").

24 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
25 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final

1 passage of Item 7-C.

2 MR. ROGAN: Second.

3 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

4 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes, on the question,
5 just briefly, I'm obviously going be voting
6 in favor of this legislation and I think it
7 is so important that the city continues to
8 work with the Lackawanna County Heritage
9 Valley Authority. All you need to do is
10 walk down the trail in the spring or summer
11 and see all of the people, all of the
12 families that use that and how important
13 that is so I think we need to continue our
14 relationship and build on it over the next
15 few years. Thank you.

16 MR. EVANS: I couldn't agree more
17 and it's funny the people you see down
18 there, I see Councilman Gaughan there as
19 much as I see anybody else. We are bother
20 regular users of the trail, but as I said,
21 families, seniors, bike riders, it's really
22 a great asset to our community.

23 MR. WECHSLER: Roll call, please?

24 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

25 MR. PERRY: Yes.

1 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

3 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

4 MR. EVANS: Yes.

5 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

6 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

7 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

8 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
9 declare Item 7-C legally and lawfully
10 adopted.

11 MS. REED: 7-D. FOR CONSIDERATION
12 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
13 FILE OF THE COUNCIL NO. 127, 2017 -
14 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
15 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE THE DEED CONVEYING
16 TITLE FROM THE CITY OF SCRANTON PARKING
17 AUTHORITY TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON, THE
18 PROPERTY LOCATED AT 100 REAR SOUTH
19 WASHINGTON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA TO
20 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, AS MORE FULLY
21 DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT "A" ATTACHED HERETO AND
22 MADE A PART HEREOF.

23 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
24 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
25 passage of Item 7-D.

1 MR. ROGAN: Second.

2 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?

3 Roll call, please?

4 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

5 MR. PERRY: Yes.

6 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

7 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

8 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

9 MR. EVANS: Yes.

10 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

11 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

12 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

13 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
14 declare Item 7-D legally and lawfully
15 adopted.

16 MS. REED: 7-E. FOR CONSIDERATION
17 BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY - FOR
18 ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 209, 2017 -
19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
20 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO
21 A MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE
22 MARTZ GROUP AND THE CITY OF SCRANTON
23 PERTAINING TO THE MAINTENANCE OF SIX (6)
24 SIGNS TO BE INSTALLED ALONG LACKAWANNA
25 AVENUE FOR THE INTERMODAL TRANSIT CENTER

1 PARKING.

2 MR. WECHSLER: What is the
3 recommendation of the Chairperson for the
4 Committee on Public Safety?

5 MR. PERRY: As Chairperson for the
6 Committee on Public Safety, I recommend
7 final passage of Item 7-E.

8 MR. ROGAN: Second.

9 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
10 Roll call, please?

11 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

12 MR. PERRY: Yes.

13 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

14 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

16 MR. EVANS: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

18 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

20 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
21 declare Item 7-E legally and lawfully
22 adopted.

23 MS. REED: 7-F. FOR CONSIDERATION
24 BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES - FOR ADOPTION -
25 RESOLUTION NO. 210, 2017 - AUTHORIZING THE

1 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
2 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR
3 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES WITH THOMAS J. MCLANE
4 AND ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR THE PROFESSIONAL
5 DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES TO PREPARE
6 DOCUMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A BASKETBALL
7 COURT, LABYRINTH AND RELATED RECREATION SITE
8 IMPROVEMENTS AT CROWLEY PARK.

9 MR. WECHSLER: As Chairperson for
10 the Committee on Rules, I recommend final
11 passage of Item 7-F.

12 MR. ROGAN: Second.

13 MR. WECHSLER: On the question?
14 Roll call, please?

15 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Perry.

16 MR. PERRY: Yes.

17 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Rogan.

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes.

19 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Evans.

20 MR. EVANS: Yes.

21 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Gaughan.

22 MR. GAUGHAN: Yes.

23 MS. CARRERA: Mr. Wechsler.

24 MR. WECHSLER: Yes. I hereby
25 declare Item 7-F legally and lawfully

1 adopted.

2 If there is no further business,
3 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

4 MR. ROGAN: Motion to adjourn.

5 MR. WECHSLER: Meeting adjourned.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the same to the best of my ability.

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER